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Remarks of the Chairman at the closing session

1. The special meeting has covered a wide range of material of use to United Nations Member States and to international, regional and subregional organizations. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) will develop a plan of action encapsulating its own follow-up to the special meeting, and encourages all other organizations represented to do the same, with the aim of benefiting from interaction between all participants at the special meeting.

Session 1
Standards, codes and best practice

2. We shall all gain from greater sharing of information and mutual awareness of each other's activities, which requires a more coordinated approach. There are several ways to take this forward:

- CTC will develop its web site to include information on standards, codes and best practice, with links to other relevant sites, where appropriate. Information provided will be clear and succinct, with adequate guidance to help users of the web site to interpret the information. Organizations which develop standards/codes should keep CTC informed.
- Member States should be encouraged to comply with standards and codes relevant to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Compliance with specific standards/codes remains voluntary. But guidance to help States comply, such as how to incorporate them into legislation, can be provided.
- Monitoring compliance with standards/codes must be closely related to the provision of assistance. Organizations should interact to ensure a consistent message on monitoring and to reduce the burden of reporting for Member States. CTC will help to coordinate in this area.
- Where possible, organizations, including CTC, should share information on assessments of Member States. Evaluations can form a valuable model for others, even if — for reasons of confidentiality — they are developed into generic messages from a wide range of assessments.

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- New standards and codes need to be consistent with existing ones and take into account human rights and other requirements. Sister organizations and CTC should be kept informed of developments in this area.

- Regional organizations are encouraged to set up systems to capture relevant information and disseminate it to their member States to help them implement standards and codes and benefit from best practice.

Session 2
Role of regional and subregional organizations in capacity-building

3. Regional organizations need to develop and define their roles. The special meeting initiated a constructive discussion on what to look for. In particular:

- Regional and subregional organizations should build counter-terrorism policies into their priorities for work on security and development. This will need new decisions at the political level. They may also wish to develop measures to help the victims of terrorism, with international assistance as appropriate.

- International, regional and subregional organizations should establish machinery to share information on best practice. The Organization of American States proposed conference for regional organizations will be important in helping them further to define their roles. CTC should be kept informed of links established by relevant organizations.

- Counter-terrorism should be an agenda point for future contacts between international, regional and subregional organizations. Programmes should be developed to help regional and subregional organizations with the practical tasks involved. Knowledge will come through conferences and other multilateral exchanges, by inviting representatives of other organizations to participate in relevant meetings, and from the information contained in the CTC summary of organizations' activities and experience (see S/AC.40/2003/SM.1/2). Regional and subregional organizations should pursue ways of establishing instruments for cooperation, training, contacts and technical advice.

- CTC will continue to develop its directory of contact points. Regional and subregional organizations should keep CTC informed of changes. CTC will discuss and develop a new matrix on regional and subregional organizations' activities, and needs to facilitate the flow of information on those matters.

Session 3
Role of international and regional organizations in assistance

4. The main goal of assistance programmes is to help Member States meet their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001).

- Capacity-building in counter-terrorism should ideally form part of a wider programme of capacity-building. CTC will help to provide the instruments for international, regional and subregional organizations to achieve such a programme. Assistance providers, whether international institutions or individual donors, should develop that approach within their systems.

- Information on assistance needs to be accessible easily and in one place. It should include guidance on what the standards, codes and best practice are, what they mean for States and what States need to do to implement them. The

CTC Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance will be further developed with these aims in mind.

- Information packs will be developed to facilitate accession to the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and other basic counter-terrorism standards.

- Better sharing of information on States' requirements should be organized. Regional and subregional organizations should identify gaps and shortcomings among their members and develop their own tools for making that information available to others. They should consult each other on the best ways to do this. CTC will develop its matrix of needs to be compatible with others, such as the World Bank, to avoid duplication.

- Assistance programmes need to be timely and focus on results. Training deserves a higher priority. The CTC matrix is designed to help potential assistance providers to identify and prioritize States' needs, develop programmes efficiently in awareness of the activities of others and avoid duplication. The special meeting will have generated ideas and contacts for taking matters forward urgently.

- Different organizations will have different priorities for assistance. They should decide and announce them. CTC and its experts can help with this, as can other international institutions.

Targets for 2003/2004

5. The overall target for all participants is to translate political will into action. In particular:

- A global information network should be recognizably in place by April 2004. Every international, regional and subregional organization, within its own specific mandate, should establish permanent mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information and the setting up of technical and other programmes.

- Each organization therefore needs to develop its own action plan on counter-terrorism within the new global framework, which should include work to enable Member States to implement resolution 1373 (2001).

- Similarly, all Member States should develop and publish their own action plans, with three principal themes: implementation of resolution 1373 (2001); contribution to the global information network; and identification and delivery of assistance needs.

- Maximum transparency will benefit all participants. The provision of information should use electronic means, wherever possible.

- In the area of assistance, every reasonable request for assistance should be met. CTC will act as catalyst for this. The focus, for donors and requirers alike, should be on delivery and operational results.

- CTC will prepare its own outcome pack to develop the detailed messages of the special meeting.

- CTC will initiate action to respond to paragraph 4 of resolution 1373 (2001) on the relationship between terrorism and other forms of international organized crime and the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.